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Character info

Name: Minara

Species: Barn owl (Tyto)

Father: Surtr (AKA: Metal Beak){Greater Snooty Owl (Tyto Tenebricosa)}

Mother: Nyra{Barn owl (Tyto Alba)}

Appearance: has Nyras body shape, and white face, and Metal Beaks body feather colors, black on her upper body, and white from her chest down. Has one green eye, one blue eye, and can turn red when angry.

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Minara is the daughter of the High Tyto Metalbeak, and Queen Nyra. She trains hard and goes beyond both of her parents expectations at her young age. They both adore her very much, and would do anything to ensure her future. One day when a group of Slave- Takers bring back owlets, a few are the same age as her, one owlet catches her eye. Well...she is going to be queen. And every queen....needs a king.

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I am so sorry I haven't posted much lately. I've been horribly stressed at work because of a virus breakout, and lost my motivation. But I'm back, and I made some little changes. I'll be working on this more tonight after work

Prologue

High in the mountains of St. Aegolus, lived a kingdom of owls known as the Pure Ones.

They were ruthless, power hungry beings, that would stop at nothing to accomplish their goal of ruling the owl kingdoms.

They were led by the Lord High Tyto Metalbeak, and his mate Queen Nyra. These two believed that Tytos were the mightiest of all owls, so they would have them as soldiers.

While believing all other species were weak, "impure" as they would say. So those who deemed unworthy, were enslaved to serve the Tytos.

A few owls who weren't Tytos were chosen as "Slave-takers". They would go around, and kidnap young owlets from their homes, and sorted to be either a soldier, or slave.

It seemed to be an ordinary day for them. Everyone was doing their duties, while Metalbeak was watching it all from his throne. A short time later, Nyra landed on the lower perch with the daily report.

"My lord" she said.

"Hmm?" he responded.

"Everything is going as planned. I've sent a group to find more owlets. Hopefully we get more soldiers, since most of last group became pickers" she said.

"Yes, I hope for the same" he agreed. Then he turned around to face her. "Nyra, come with me. I wish to speak with you on a private matter." He said as he spread his wings, and flew off the perch.

"Of course" she responded, quickly following him.

The two flew in silence to their hollow. Once they were inside, Nyra

spoke first.
"My lord-"

"Nyra." He interrupted. " There's no need for formalities when we're alone." He said as he took off his mask and put it on the display.

She nodded her head, knowing he was right. There wasn't any need to be formal in their own home. Here, they were free to do what they pleased. Even show affection towards each other.

"What did you need to speak with me about, Surtr? You seem troubled." She asked using his real name.

Surtr thought for a moment. He did have something on his mind, but she came first. Then he turned to her.

"Nyra, you have been acting.....different lately. Is everything alright?" He said as he walked slowly towards her.

"I'm not sure what you mean." She said quickly denying. He knew she was hiding something, so he pressed on.

"You seem to be losing your temper more easily, your flying is a bit slow, your not eating as much, and your breathing seemed to be labored. What's going on?"

Nyra looked at him for a moment, then turned her head down. She was hiding something, and wanted to tell him what she found out the other night. So, seeing no way out of it she started.

"Surtr, remember when we were talking about the Pure Ones future?" He nodded.

"We're going to..have..." Nyra trailed off hesitating, and looked to the ground.

"Yes?" He said, while lifting her chin with his claw to look her in the eye.

Nyra took a deep breath and said,
"We're going to have a hatchling." She finished.

Surtr's eyes widened "You mean..."

Nyra nodded "Yes, my love. Your going to be a father."

Surtr couldn't believe what he was hearing. He stepped closer to Nyra.

"I'll have an heir?" He whispered unbelievingly.

Nyra nuzzled him " Yes, my darling."

She pulled back for a moment. " I know that's what troubling you. Our little one will lead the new generation. So there's no need to worry anymore."

That did it. Surtr wrapped his wings around her, and nuzzled her back in excitement, all his troubles were forgotten.

He'll have to announce the news, but right now he'd rather be here. With her.

Chapter 1: Princess Minara

Sometime later, Nyra laid an egg, and started nesting. The hatchling wasn't even born, yet Nyra had this overprotective feeling. Afraid that something might happen to the egg if she left even for a second. So she decided to stand guard the whole time.

One night, the moon has just risen, duties were done for the day. Now Surtr and Nyra were in their hollow, snuggled together, looking at the egg adoringly. Wondering if it will be a boy or a girl. Normally a king would want a boy as an heir, so he can teach him everything he knows. But he also wouldn't mind a girl, she would be like her mother. It didn't matter to him, because the Pure Ones legacy will live on, and they were going to be parents.

"Hmm, I hope we meet our little one soon." Nyra said as she snuggled closer to her husband.

"I hope so as well, my dear." He responded as he laid his head on top of hers. Soon they both feel asleep...not knowing that the moment they were waiting for was closer than they thought.

Later that night....*crack*.

"Mmm." Surtr opened his eyes for a second, and looked around.

Nyra felt his movement and looked at him. "What is it, my love?"

"Thought I heard something. Never mind." He shrugged it off and went back to sleep.

Just then... *crack* *craCK* the sound was getting louder.

Surtr's eyes shot open. This time he knows for sure he wasn't hearing things. He looked at the egg, and saw some cracks on it.

The time has come.

"Nyra wake up." He nudged her, and she opened her eyes "Look."

Just as she did, the egg moved and cracked some more.

"*GASP* Oh my!" She whispered excitedly, with tears brimming her eyes.

As they walked closer to the nest, *CRACK* *CRACK* *CRAAACK*

"Screeech" A little head popped out, and gave a low screech. Then the hatchling pushed on the shell more, and eventually broke free. They got a good look, and it was a girl. A beautiful baby girl. The hatchling opened her eyes and was greeted by her parents.

"Here we are little one" she looked up to Nyra and smiled.

Nyra looked at the owlet's eyes, and was astounded. "Surtr look at her eyes."

Surtr was surprised as well as he looked over his daughters features. She had both of her parents eyes. Her left eye was blue like Nyra, and her right eye was green like his. Her face was pure white, while her body was a dark gray meaning she'll have black feathers like he does. Surtr couldn't help but feel a sense of pride. This hatchling was the perfect blend between them.

Nyra nuzzled her new baby girl, and the owlet nuzzled back. Then the baby looked at her father and chirped happily.
"She wants to meet you." Surtr walked closer, and his daughter nudged her head under his belly. "Aww, shes perfect."

"What shall we name her, my love?" Nyra asked anxiously. Surtr thought for a moment and then it hit him.

"We will call her.....Minara." said Surtr.

"Minara is a lovely name. Princess Minara." Nyra agreed.

Minara looked at her parents one last time, before she gave a big yawn and went to sleep. Nyra and Surtr were living in the happiest moment.

~3 month time skip~

A mouse was scurrying around until...**SWOOOSH!!** It was nabbed by an owl. More specifically an owlet princess.

"I got it mother!" Minara exclaimed happily, as she caught her first mouse.

"Very well done. Silent and swift. Your father will be most pleased your learning so quickly."

It was true. When Minara got her feathers, her wings were a little bit larger than most owlets her age.

Which made learning on how to fly easier. She would practice on her own by going from ledge to ledge, work on her gliding, and power skills in areas that have still air.

Living in a canyon area, you either learn to fly, or you fall to your death in the darkness below.

Minara ate the mouse then looked at her mother. "Does that mean I get to help train any new soldiers my age?" She asked hopefully.

"We will see. Now, your father wishes to speak with you."

"Okay mother" they nudged heads and Minara flew off towards the throne room.

~Minara POV ~

'I wonder what father wants to talk about.' I thought to myself as I flew through the canyons. I see a whole line of moonblinked owlets, and it got me wondering.

So I decided to swing by the pelletorium, and see what was going on. I was told we needed pickers, but never knew what they were picking for. I land on a pillar, and watch the moonblinked owlets pick through mouse pelts.

'Gross. Glad it's them and not us tytos.' I thought to myself. Then I look at the top of stairs, and I see a pulsing blue light, on a pile of metal. 'What's that?'

As I was thinking that, "Princess Minara." I hear someone calling out to me. I turn around to find a soldier approaching. "I was looking for you princess. The Lord High Tyto is wondering where you were."

My eyes widened, I forgot that father wanted to talk to me. I better hurry, and hope he doesn't get mad. "Oh, thank you soldier. I'll be on my way." I said as I took off from the pelletorium.

I see the throne and my father sitting on the top. I land on the perch below him, and greeted him. "Morning father."

He turned his head and greeted me. "Ah Minara, there you are. I see your flying has gotten better already. I barely heard you coming."

I chuckled lightly. "Must run in the family." I said as I spread my wings. He chuckled. "You wanted to speak with me, father?"

"Yes I did want to talk to you. Come up here."

I jumped on the perch next to him, and he started talking. "Now, you remember that story I've told you since you were a hatchling, and our purpose."

"Yes. The one with the guardians and Lyze of Keil." I said with venom in each word. "We are ment to rule the owl kingdoms. The strong will triumph, the broken are dealt with, weakness is for the lower species."

He turned his head towards me. "Yes. And why is that daughter?"

I look at him in the eye. " Because we are...TYTOS" I said with pride.

"Excellent" Even under his mask I can tell he was smiling. I smiled back, took a quick glance at his left eye, then looked down grimacing. " What's the matter, my dear?"

I looked back at him, my eyes turned red "How I would love to tear that guardians gizzard out for he did to you."

Father knew what I ment. I hated the guardians. Ever since he told

me about the Pure Ones history, and the battle between him and Lyze, I was determined to get rid of the guardians once and for all.

As if he read my mind, he placed a wing around me and my eyes went back to normal. "Calm yourself my dear. We will be rid of the guardians soon enough."

I nodded in understanding, then I remembered what I saw at the earlier.

"Father," I said looking up at him. "What is that blue metal I saw at the pelletorium?"

"Ah, so that's what took you so long to get here."

I looked a him nervously. "Are you upset?"

He only smiled and shook his head. "No, no my dear. I could never be mad at you. What you saw is a metal material called 'Flecks'. It is what we'll use against our enemy. It affects an owls gizzard, making them weak, and vulnerable. You will see later on."

"Hmm, I would like to see that." I nudged up to him. "Anyway, mother said that we will be getting more owlets. If we get more tytos, can I help train them?"

"I don't see why not. You are a prime example of how strong a tyto should be."

"Oooh, thank you father!" I exclaimed happily.

"My lord, and princess." We both turned our heads to a soldier. "The slave-takers have returned with more owlets. Queen Nyra is heading there as we speak."

Father looked at me "You should go greet them with your mother. We'll talk more later."

"Alright father," We touched foreheads, and flew towards the soldier. Then he escorted me to mother.

"Mother! Mother!" I landed next to her. "Father said I can help with

the training!"

"Oh that's wonderful darling. Come. They are all gathered at the sorting grounds."

And so we both flew to the grounds to greet the frightened owlets.

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I made some changes, and made it a tad bit longer to make it up to y'all. Enjoy ;) <3 <3
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Chapter 2: Meeting Kludd

[image] [image]

3rd. POV:
After the owlets were kidnapped by the slave-takers, they were brought to dark mountains. There were torches, and owls with helmets everywhere. Then the owlets were dropped to the sorting grounds.
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Kludds POV:
'Where are we?' I thought to myself.

The owlets were panicking as soldiers started surrounding us.

"Quiet! Listen to the old man" said an owl named Jatt.

"All right settle down" said an owl named Grimble. "Silence. Your parents and families have abandoned you. So from now, you'll be classified as orphans. Horribly tragic, I know. But by the mercy of Glaux, you have been rescued, and brought here to St. Aegolius."

'St. Aegolius? Who are these owls? Why did they take us?' As I was thinking, Grimble continued.

"And in time, you'll come to be grateful for the kindness shown to you. You'll repay that kindness with labor. Some of you will be pickers."

"Oh, no. I don't want to be a picker!" Said an owlet trying to be brave.

"Some will be soldiers. In your ways, all will serve the High Tyto and the Pure Ones."

That caught my attention. High Tyto? Pure ones? Could those stories really be true? 'No, no way. I'm not gonna be a dreamer like Soren. It's all they are, stories.'
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

As I was thinking this, the owlets started protesting, and got louder by the second.

"Let us go!"

"Silence."

"We don't want to serve the Pure Ones!"

"Who are the Pure Ones?"

"Silence!!"

Then we heard the loudest screeching, and everyone was silent. I looked up, and I couldn't believe what I saw.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
3rd POV:
Two tyto soldiers approached, and landed on the side bars of the pillar. Nyra swooped in with Minara right behind her. They flew over the owlets, and Nyra landed at the very top of the pillar, while Minara landed on the second level. Kludd couldn't take his eyes off the females, more specifically, Minara. White face, black feathers on her whole upper body from the top of her forehead, to her wings, to her tail. White underbelly, and legs. But what enchanted him more was her eyes. One eye was blue, and the other was green. He has never seen such beauty.

Minara glanced around, until her eyes locked with Kludds, then something clicked. There was something about him that made her heart flutter. This lasted for about a second, till Minara broke eye contact and straightened up when Nyra began speaking.

"I am Nyra. Ablah General of St. Aegolius, and mate to the Lord High Tyto. This is my daughter, Minara."

Minara nodded her head in greeting, then she started talking. "We know right now you miss your families, but soon enough you will understand, the Pure Ones are your new family."
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Minara POV:
Right after I finished, I heard an owlet shout, "The Pure Ones are

not our family! Let us go!"

I looked at her, then the tyto next to her say "She's right. Let us go!"

I hear mother exhale, and fly down to them. I followed right after, and landed next to her.

"What's this?" Mother said.

I see the small owlet shivering, and said, " Tyto, dont waste your time. Don't soil your feathers."

The tyto was the same size as me. He got in my face and said, "You leave her be."

I looked at him, clearly not phased. "Oh, a tyto sticking up for a lower species. This one is spirited mother."

"Yes, how touching. You and your patch of felt will stay together, then....As pickers."

Just then Jutt came and started pushing the two owlets away.

"Perhaps when you remember your nobility, Tyto, we can make a soldier of you." Mother said.

Just then the tyto yelled, "What about my brother?"

That caught our attention. "Oh? Where's he?" said mother.

"Kludd!"

I looked at who the tyto was talking about, and I was surprised. It was the same owlet who was staring at me earlier.

"Owlet..." Mother says, walking up to him. "That one says you're his brother. Would you like to join him?"

'Please don't, please don't, please don't' I thought hoping mother wouldn't send him.

The owlet looked at his brother, then to mother, then to me, then back to his brother. I could see in his eyes that they don't get along.

Then without hesitation....he looked away from his brother.

"I didn't think so." Said mother. I let you out a breath I didn't even know I was holding.

I walked up to him as Jutt was taking the tyto away. He looked at me, and I gave him a small smile.

"Now, there's a soldier." I said.
"Indeed." Mother agreed.

Mother walked away to look at the other owlets. I decided to greet him. "Hello. Kludd is it?"

"Oh uh..yes, Princess."

"Please, just Minara will do when my parents aren't around."

"Alright"

"I'm guessing you don't get along with your brother. It really is a pity he isn't joining us. Hopefully after a day with the pickers, he'll see what we Tytos are meant to be."

As I was talking, I noticed the three scratches on his face. "These wounds look fresh. May I ask what happened?"

"It was my stupid brothers idea to go branching without our parents. He just wanted to show off. We fell out of our tree, and landed on the ground. Then we were attacked by a beast, until a red owl killed it, then he and his friend took us." He said as he glanced at the owl who took him. I looked in his direction and recognized the horned owl.

"Ah, the twins. That one is Jatt. And the one who took your brother is Jutt. Apparently they like to startle any owlets they capture." I noticed a wound on Jatts foot, and it was deep. " Did you do that to him?"

He nodded, then I just giggled. "Hahahaha. I'm impressed. We'll make a soldier out of you yet."

As I was talking, he was just staring. "What?"

"Wow." He said softly, as if mesmerized.

I raised an eyebrow, "Wow..what?"

"Your eyes. I've never seen an owl with different color eyes before." He said.

"Well, Jatt and Jutt have different color eyes. But they always do their 'Evil Stares'. It's weird. You probably think mine are weird." I say looking down, suddenly feeling insecure about my eyes.

"Not at all" I hear him say, then I felt a talon under my chin, lifting my head up to his eye level. " I think your eyes are beautiful."

I felt my face blushing." Oh uh..thank you."

"Minara, darling." I looked behind me, and see mother walking towards me with 8 other Tyto owlets following behind her. "We must get them settled in."

"Yes mother." I say as I looked back at Kludd with a smile. "If you will please, follow me."

Kludd nodded as we followed mother to the soldiers new home.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
I had to rewrite some parts. I decided to make this chapter all about Minara and Kludd. Hope you all like it. I'll introduce the other characters in the next chapter.

Credit to:
1)stmimorgan1 for helping me pick out an opening.
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Chapter 3: Making New Friends and Rivals

[image]

After seeing all these reads and people started voting my story, and following me, I really couldn't be happier. Thank you all so much for your support💙💙💙 And I made this chapter longer to make it up to ya'll

This chapter has been updated. This when I introduce Sinder and Jewel.

And I will introduce Kludds Rival
Credit to Cold_Pancakes for his name

Enjoy...

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Minara POV:
Later that night, the pickers were taken away, while the chosen tytos were gathered. Mother gestures to me to speak. With a smile on my face, I step forward.

"Welcome Tytos. From now on, this will be your home. As you all shall know, we are the most superior of all owls. That's why we need all the best fliers, and fighters we can find. You will serve my father, and he will expect the most out of all of you. I know that us being the same age, you can't fly yet."

I decided to do an example. So I spread my wings, and shot off in the air, and soared around them.

Everyone looked at me in awe. Especially Kludd.

"I will teach you how to fly. Mother will train you in combat." I say as I landed on the ground.
~~~~~~

Then a soldier arrived with dead mice, and small rodents in a basket for them to eat. That's when mother spoke.

"I had some soldiers bring you food. You all will eat, and rest tonight. Then you will train twice as hard tomorrow."

The soldiers placed the basket at the front of the owlets, and they all ate their share. Then mother leaned towards me and whispered to me.

"I have to plan out their training. How about you get acquainted with them, dear? I'll be back shortly."

I looked at her nodding "Okay."

She nudged my head and flew off. I decided to greet the girls first.

"Hello. I don't think we have been properly introduced. I'm Minara. What are your names?" I asked.

They both hesitated, then responded as they bowed.

"I'm Sinder."

"And I'm Jewel"

I chuckled lightly. "It's a pleasure to meet you. I do hope you like it here, and please (whispering) There is no need to bow to me, only do it when my parents are around." I said with a wink, making them giggle, and make them more comfortable.

As I was looking at them, I could tell they were starved and beaten.

"May I ask how you two got these injuries?"

Jewel started."I was beaten by my siblings, then kicked out of the nest because I was the runt. Been on my own ever since."

"And I found her after I was kicked out of my family, because of my soot color feathers. We defended ourselves the best we could." Sinder said as she gestured to their talons. They were covered with blood, and chipped a bit here and there.

"Until we were taken by these owls." Jewel finished.

I was surprised. This young, on their own, and their fighters.

"Well you don't have to worry about that anymore. You two will be great soldiers." I said with a smile. I think we'll gonna get along just fine.

As we were talking, I hear Jewel say," Kludd's staring at you Minara. I think he likes you."

I blushed. "Really?"

"Oooooh." Sinder teased.

I looked behind me and see that Kludd is indeed looking at me. I gave him a small smile, and he smiled back.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
3rd POV:
In the background, another owlet has his eye on the fair Minara, **Astor**. A masked Tasmanian owl that is determined to get his way.

When they first arrived to St. Aegolius, and saw Minara, he thought that she was absolutely breathtaking. He saw that little exchange between her and Kludd, looking into each others eyes, and she was talking to Kludd, it made Astor very angry.

He didn't like that the owl of his dreams is being affectionate on another male.

Not one bit.

In his eyes, Minara was his, and his alone. Nobody deserves the right to look at her that way.

Astor glares at Kludd, and he'll have to show that he's better than him, to win Minaras' attention.

This beautiful princess, was definitely worth fighting for. Since she went back to talking to the other girls, this was his chance to introduce himself.
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Minara POV:
Sinder, Jewel, and I were talking amongst ourselves, about the male tytos, until Jewel said "Hey, someone's coming over."

My eyes widened a bit. Was Kludd coming over? With a small smile on my face, I turn around, only to have my smile dropped. It wasn't Kludd as she was hoping for.

"What's the matter? Not who you were expecting?" He said with a smirk and a cocky tone. "Perhaps I can change your mind, Minara."

I got slightly agitated at his tone, but kept my composure like mother taught me. Keeping that in mind, I responded. "And who are you to call me by my name?"

"I'm so glad you asked. My name is Astor." He said as he bowed. " My, my, what a pretty prize you are. You would be a very suitable mate back home."

'Oh of all the nerve of this tyto. Prize?! Mate?! How dare he talk to me like this. This tyto needed to know his place.' As if they read my mind, Sinder and Jewel beat me to it.

"How dare you talk to Princess Minara that way? That may be acceptable where you're from, but it won't work here." Sinder said outraged.

"Back off creep!" Jewel said full of anger.

"Shut it! This doesn't concern you two." The girls scoffed in shock. Then he looked back at me. "I assure you Minara, I come from a long line of champion owls. I can be a better mate for you than any of these hatchlings."

'THAT'S IT!!' I thought

"That's PRINCESS MINARA to you! You're nothing but an arrogant, self centered owlet if you ask me." I said with a calm, but serious tone. "Unless you want more trouble, I suggest you back off."

Astor smirked, ignoring my warning, and stepped closer "Playing hard to get? I'm into that."

He's really asking to get plucked. Before I could do anything, someone jumped on him. They rustled for a bit, till Astor was pushed away.

It was Kludd.

"She said for you to BACK OFF!" He said with a very demanding tone. " This isn't how you treat someone who gave you a new home, and future."

Astor glared at Kludd, but he stepped back.

"Fine. We'll settle this in training." He said as he looked back at me," Keep watch, beautiful. You might just be surprised." He winked then walked away.

"*scoff* Of all the cheek." Sinder said.

"What a jerk." Jewel said.

As the girls were talking, I decided to talk to Kludd.

"Thank you for what you did. It was very sweet of you." I said with a smile.

Kludd blushed "Uh..no problem. He was making you uncomfortable, and I couldn't just sit back."

'Oh he's so cute when he is shy.' As I was thinking that, I hear a set of wings. I look around and i see mother flying towards us, and landed next to me.

"Minara darling, it is time to show them to their hollows. They're training will begin at first light. I'll wait for you here."

"Yes mother" i nodded, then turned to the others.

"If you will all please follow me. I will show you where you sleep."

Kludd POV:
As we were following her I felt someone nudge me, roughly. I looked to my left, and walking next to me was Astor.

"You listen here bub," he whispered with a very serious tone. "You stay away from Minara."

I glared at him, "You're the one making her uncomfortable. She clearly isn't interested in you."

Astor growled. "And you think she's interested in you?"

I smirked. "She thanked me for what I did. So yeah, I do."

Astor muttered angrily, and had a little stare down.

"Boys!" Minara screeched, and we looked at her. "If you're going to fight, save it for training."

We stepped away from each other, and listened to what Minara was going to say.

"Boys take the left hollow, girls take the right. I will come to get you in the morning. Sleep well." She said.

The tytos divided to their hollows. As I was walking by, Minara stopped me. Then nudged her head on mine, and whispered

"Thank you again. Good night."

That surprised me. She must be talking about earlier, so I looked at her, and returned it. "Good night, Minara." She smiled at me, then left.

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3rd POV:

Astor watched that little exchange between Minara and Kludd, and scratched his talons on the ground, hard.

'I'll get you Kludd. Minara is mine.'

With that, all the boys fell asleep, awaiting tomorrow.

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Minara POV:

I left the boys hollow to check on the girls. "Sinder, Jewel."

"Yes?" They both responded.

"I just wanted to see how you two were doing before I leave." I said.

"Oh we're doing good." said Jewel.

"But the real question is, how are you doing?" She said slyly. "Done telling your crush goodnight?"

I blushed and looked away. " I dont know what you're talking about."

"Oh yes you do." Jewel teased. "We saw that little exchange. You like him, don't you?"

I gave in. "Okay, I do. He's just really sweet, and knows how to treat a girl. And I hope to get to know him more.

Both girls awed at my comment on Kludd.

"Now, changing the subject, don't think I'll go easy on you in training. My father expects greatness from you two." I said with a kind, but firm tone

"Oh we will work hard!" Sinder said nodding her vigorously.

"Yes!" Jewel agreed. " After what you did for us, we want to give you everything we have. We'll be the best fliers."

"And the best fighters." Sinder added.

"Excellent. There is just one more thing." The girls gave me a confused look, and I continued. " Do you think....we can...also be friends?"

The girls eyes widened a bit. As if it was shocking to them that I would want friends.

"There isn't many tytos my age around here, and it would be nice to have someone other that my parents to talk to."

The girls looked at each other, then looked at me with a kind smile,

and both engulfed me with a hug.

"Of course we'll be friends." Jewel said.

"Best friends." Said Sinder.

I look at the two with excitement. "Even better than that." Jewel added. "We'll be sisters."

'Sisters' I thought to myself.

"You did say that the Pure Ones are family, right?" Sinder stated.

"I did indeed." I say as I wrap my wings around the two. "Thank you Jewel. Thank you Sinder."

"You're welcome, Minara." They both respond.

"Well isn't this sweet."

A new voice startled the three of us. We look back at the entrance, and see that it's mother.

"Mother!" Startled, I started replying "I uh...we were..."

Mother raised an eyebrow with a small smile on her face, then I got to the point. "How much did you hear?"

"I heard the whole thing. You were taking your time, so I came looking for you. We need to report to your father, then you need to rest for training."

"Of course mother." I say with my head down, and started walking past her. "And as for you two." Mother said.

'Oh no. I hope she's not mad at them' I think to myself then I turn around to see the girls with their heads down. I watch as mother continued.

"If you two want to be Minaras' sisters, I expect you to be at your best. You two talk like how a Tyto should, but let's see you prove it." She said in a stern, but kind tone.

'Phew.' I thought as I let out a breath.

They both looked up at her. Surprised that she was so kind to them.

"We promise, your majesty.

"Good. Now get some rest." Mother said as she turned towards me. "Come Minara. Your father is expecting us."

"Coming mother." I look back at the girls. "See you in the morning." I say as I followed mother out of the hollow.

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Nyra POV

After the new recruits were settled in, Minara and I were heading back to the throne room to report to Metalbeak.

"Father will be most pleased with how many soldiers we have this time." Minara suddenly said.

"Yes." I replied

"When do we present them to father?" She asked.

"We will put them through a series of tests. And their final one will be catching a blue bird."

"Ok." Minara nodded.

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3rd POV:

They get to the throne room, and land on the perch.

"There you two are. What do you have to tell me?" He said as he turned around to greet his mate and daughter.

Nyra spoke first "My love. We have recruited eight tyto owlets. We will begin training first thing in the morning."

"Excellent. The more soldiers we get, the better." He said with a grin.

"There would be nine, but one tyto didn't know his place, and was sent to be a picker. Hopefully he'll see the error of his ways, so he'll be a soldier." Minara said.

"Hmm" he responded.

"Father?" Minara spoke up again. "May I ask you something?."

Metalbeak looked at her noticing her nervousness. "Of course Minara, what is it?"

"Well...two of the eight recruits are female. And I was wondering if...um" she trailed off, digging a talon into the perch.

That's when Nyra spoke up, making Metalbeak look at her.

"She wants to know if she could be friends with them. " Nyra said with a smirk.

"Mother!" Minara exclaimed blushing red.

Metalbeak looked from Nyra to Minara.

"Is this true, daughter?"

Minara looked at him, nodding " They came from abusive pasts. But they're fighters, they hate other owls, and were grateful to have been brought here. And want to prove to you they're worthy of staying."

"Hmmm" as he thought for a moment, Minara continued as she looked down.

"I know that this isn't our way, but-"

"I'll allow it." He said

"I- wait what?" Minara said looking confused.

"I will allow for you to be friends with the two females."

"Really?!" Minara exclaimed happily.

"Yes. You need to be around owls your own age." He said

Nyra nodded in agreement. Minaras eyes brightened.

"Thank you!" She said.

"You are welcome, darling. Now it is time for you to go to bed. Big day tomorrow." Nyra said.

"Alright mother."

"And remember Minara," Metalbeak said as he tilted her chin with his armored talon in his direction. "Never be afraid to ask us something. We'll always be there for you, and want the best for you."

"And as future queen, we want you to be prepared for anything." Nyra added.

Minara looked at her parents. Eyes full of love and with a smile.

"I understand." She said as she as she parents nuzzled heads with them. "I love you both. So much."

"And we love you, darling." Nyra said.

"Now off to bed. We'll see you in the morning." Metalbeak said.

"Ok" Minara said.

After they separated, Minara spread her wings and flew towards her hollow for the night. Looking forward to another day.

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Metalbeak POV:

After Minara left, Nyra and I returned to our hollow. Then Nyra spoke up.

"Surtr, there is another thing you should know."

"What's that?" I said looking at her.

"Among the male recruits, some took a liking to the two females.
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Two of the males have their eyes on Minara."

That's when I felt my fatherly instincts kicked in.

"I wouldn't care much about them choosing the two females. But if one of them wants our daughter, they'll have to prove worthy."

"Of course my love." She responded as she went up next to me. "She's still young. There will be plenty of time."

"Yes" I say as I put my head on hers. Then we both fell asleep for the night.

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I'm so sorry for the delay. I had to figure out how I was gonna start Kludds rivalry with Astor.

I hope you all are safe, and healthy during these troubled times. All we can do is pray that it'll blow over.
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I also have some more stories in progress. I'll be posting the 1st chapters when I can.

Please let me know how this is

Thank you💖💖💖
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Chapter 4: Training Part 1

[image] [image]

3rd POV:
Minara woke up bright and early, ready for training. She couldn't wait to see Sinder, Jewel, and especially Kludd.

As she was flying, she looked over the moonblinked owlets, and sees Kludds brother.

To her surprise, he wasn't moonblinked. She landed on a rock and watched him. Then he hears the little elf owl talk.

"Soren!" She whispers. "Soren! Where are we going now?"

"Gylfie. We need to act moonblinked." He whispered as he faked a blank expression like the others.

'Soren. So that's his name' Minara thought to herself as Soren locked eyes with her for a split second.

Minara smirked, then she had an idea. She waited until they got into the Pelletorium, then followed them in. She flew through the entrance and sees Soren standing to the side with his friend.

This was where she put her plan into action. It was a risk, but she had to try. So she walked up to him.

"So you resisted being moonblinked." she said with a smirk. "No one has ever done that before."

Both turned to her, startled by her presence. Gylfie was still frightened by her. "Y-You're that pure ones daughter." She started.

"Minara" Soren finished.

"I've come to give you a second chance, Soren. I could tell my mother what you went through, and she'll be most impressed, so you wont have to be a picker." She says in a kind tone, hopefully to

win him over.

Soren looked at her like she was crazy, then asked her. "Why do this? Why moonblink other owls to be slaves?"

"Isn't it obvious? The strong rule, and the weak obey. We are Tytos, we are superior. Kludd seemed to understand that very well." Minara said.

Sorens eyes widened at his brothers name. "Where is my brother? What did you do to him?"

"Me? I did nothing at all. Don't worry, he's just fine. You should've remembered your nobility. You can still be one of us, Soren." Minara stated.

"I can never be like you. Just let us go." Soren said with a defiant tone.

Minara chuckled a bit. "And even if I did, where would you go? You cant even fly, let alone fight. But-"

"Not yet we can't." Soren interrupted. He panicked a bit realizing his mistake.

Minara raised a brow. "And how do plan on doing that? You'll never get away with it, without getting caught. But I can save you the trouble. I'm going to teach your brother and the other tyto owlets how to fly. I can teach you too."

Minara stepped closer, till she's face to face with him. "Last chance Soren, if you really want to be with your brother, join us."

"I will **NEVER** join you." Soren protested.

Minara scoffed. Annoyed that he wouldn't accept her offer. She'll still tell her mother about him, and maybe she can convince him. But for right now, she'll leave him alone.

"You are such a fool. Mother was right. Perhaps some time down here will bring you to your senses. Now I suggest you keep up with this sharade if you don't want to get caught." Minara says as she

pushes them towards the other pickers

"What are you-" Soren starts saying.

"**Jatt! Jutt!**" Minara calls out to the twins, interrupting him. Soren and Gylfie immeditatly get back to their blank expressions. She vaguely hears them mutter something to each other, then turned to her.

"Greetings Princess." said Jutt.

"New look again, Jutt?" Minara asked unamused.

"Yes. I call it 'The Predator'." Jutt responded.

"I've also been working on my 'Evil Stare'." Jatt said as he demonstrated.

Minara looked between the two, annoyed that Jatt and Jutt always greeted her like this, and they kept going on and on, getting off topic.

Then Minara had enough.

"SILENCE, YOU IDIOTS! I've had enough of this nonsense!" She yelled as her eyes glowed red, making Jatt and Jutt freeze in shock and fear. "These two wandered off. Keep better track of them."

"Y-Yes princess. Sorry princess." They said as Jatt took Soren and Gylfie away.

"And Jutt." Minara called out, making him turn to face her." When you find a fleck, have that tyto takes it to the others. Understand?"

Her plan was to have Soren experience the effects of the flecks her father spoke of. If it does give great pain, Soren will have to join them.

"Of course, princess." Jutt said.

"Good." she responded as she looked to the the top, and sees her mother standing on a ledge.

"Mother and I will be back for him later." She said as she flew up to begin training.

~Minara POV~
I flew through the hole, and greeted everyone.

"Morning soldiers." I say as I flew around them. "Hope you all slept well, cause I'm gonna train you all hard today." I finished as I landed next to mother, and she nudged my head in greeting.

"Whoa, there are so many." Jewel said as she see's the pickers walk in.

"Hmph, who cares? I certainly don't." Sinder said.

"And right you are young one." Mother agreed. " You mustn't feel sorry for them down there. As lower species, they are fortunate to serve a higher cause. As Tyto owls, their natural superiors, you too are a part of the plan." As she was talking, I looked over the owlets.

When I locked eyes with Astor, he winked at me and puffed out his chest. I glared at him, then looked at Kludd. He smiled at me, then I smiled back.

"One that will soon bring order to all the owl kingdoms, when the Pure Ones will rule. A new and noble era will dawn." Mother finishes, and gestures to me to start the lesson.

She steps back as I step forward. "Now prove your greatness, tytos. And rise."

Kludd and Astor glared at each other a bit, and they all started to take flight.

"Higher!" I shouted

As I'm watching them I see Sinder and Jewel do pretty good. Then I see Astor staring down Kludd as he flapped faster than him.

He looked at me, seeing if I was watching him. From the corner of my eye, I see Kludd glare at Astor, and he flapped harder to get higher than him. He looked at me to see if I was watching, and boy

I was.

"Higher!" Mother shouted.

As I looked over everyone, I kept my eyes on Kludd. Then I decided to give them some encouragement, so I joined in.

"That's it, good! Feel every muscle, every feather in each stroke. And PUSH!" I flapped down hard shooting up higher. Everyone watched and followed my lead.

"Come on, your almost there. Up to that ledge." I say as I flew a bit ahead of them. Astor and Kludd were in the lead, with Sinder and Jewel right behind them.

I landed on the ledge and waited. The panting was getting louder, and the first one to the top was Kludd. I cheered internally, then I see Astor, next came Jewel, then Sinder, then all the rest of the owlets got up. They all landed on the platform, completely out of breath.

"Very well done, all of you. But I'm afraid we don't have time for a break right now. My mother wants you all in the air as soon as possible to present to my father. Now, on to the next lesson." I say as I continued their training.

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~3rd POV~

Meanwhile....

In a cavern of St. Aegolius, Metalbeak was with his contact. A Guardian named Allomere. They were watching the bats bring the flecks to a bigger pile. Then Metalbeak told Allomere his plan.

"Once we have amassed enough flecks, we will set a trap, then it is up to you to lure our enemy into their rightful place... Into our claws" he says as he turned to look at Allomere.

"And then, the western kingdoms, and the tree, those will be mine." Allomere confirmed.

"You have my word." Metalbeak promised.

With their meeting finished, Allomere took off. Metalbeak stared in
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his direction, thinking about how much of a fool Allomere was. Not even realizing his true intentions.

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~Minara POV~

I was with Sinder and Jewel, giving them a gliding lesson. Mother kept the boys with her for battle training.

The wind blowing against us was very strong, and they seemed to be struggling a bit. Jewel kept flapping like crazy, and Sinder was swaying too much she drops for a bit.

I look back at them and said, "Girls, do not fight against the air currents. Use them to your advantage. Just relax, keep your wings spread out, and let the current take you. Follow me."

I flew through the air, and the girls followed suit. We went all around the mountains. Every turn, ascend, descend, narrow caverns, they seemed to really get the hang of it.

"This is pretty easy. I feel like I could do this for hours. How about you Jewel?" Said Sinder as she looked her way. Jewel saw just staring at her wings.

"You know what, Sinder? We're flying!" Jewel said happily as she did a few tricks, and Sinder followed suit.

"How does it feel?" I ask with a smile on my face.

"It feels wonderful. I feel so.." Sinder started.

"Free." Jewel finished.

We flew into an open area, and thought about what mother was talking to the boys about.

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3rd POV

Minara lead the soldiers through a small course for their flying, now they are taking a break. That was when Nyra showed up, and went up to her daughter.

"You are training them wonderfully darling."

"Thank you mother."

"Why were you late to start training this morning?" Nyra asked with a concerned tone.

"I.." Minara hesitated a bit "I was on my way here, then I saw that tyto. He wasn't moonblinked like the others."

Nyra was surprised by the news.

"I thought that I could convince him to join us. Father would hate to waste a strong tyto." Minara finished.

"True. So what happened?" Nyra asked.

"He still refused. He may need some more persuasion. So I thought if he experienced the pain the flecks can do, and we go get him with his brother, he'll have to join us."

"Hmm, very clever dear." Nyra said as she smiled. "We will go and pick him up later. But for now, take the girls on another lesson. I'll start training the boys battle training."

Minara felt that there was a little bit more to it, and she was going to find out what. With a plan in mind, she went along with it.

"Alright mother. Sinder, Jewel with me."

They followed Minara, and she explained the girls next lesson.

"You two have been doing good so far. Now I'm going to teach you how to glide long distances." She says as they went around a corner, then stopped.

"Minara what is it?" Sinder asked as Nyra started talking.

"Shh. Listen." Minara tells her.

"You all have done well so far. What I'm about to tell you is from the Lord High Tyto himself." Nyra said.

'What did father say?' Minara thought to herself as Nyra continued.

"One of you will be chosen as his apprentice. You all are the Pure Ones future. And when your grown, you will have a mate. Sinder and Jewel are strong, worthy, and capable females."

Sinder and Jewel was shocked by this. Then Nyra continued.

"But the one that is worthy to be his apprentice, will be the one to be Minaras mate." Nyra said firmly.

After Nyra said that, Minaras eyes widened in surprise. 'Whoever father chooses, will be my betrothed?' It excited her greatly, and hoping Kludd would be the best, and father chooses him.

She's only known him for a short time, but she feels some kind of connection. Like the love her parents have. With that in mind, she turns to Sinder and Jewel, and they head out to do their lesson.

'Good luck Kludd' Minara thought to herself.

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~Minara POV~

I was brought out of my daze when I see a large shadow, and hear Sinder screaming.

"WATCH OUT!! HAWK! HAWK!"

I looked up, and I see a very large bird I've never seen before swooping down towards us really fast. We dive down, and he just barely missed us.

"He's coming back!" Jewel shouted. With no time to waste, we flew as fast as we could to stay out of his reach. I looked around and I see a cave entrance. Then I had an idea.

"Come on, follow me!" I shouted as we flew into the cave. And thankfully the hawk followed inside too. Luckily we can see in the dark, then we found a ledge to catch our breath. The hawk wasn't so fortunate, but the cave entrance gave him some light so he

landed on the ground and looked around.

"He cant see us. Good." Jewel said with relief.

"What are we gonna do? With him there, how are we gonna get out?" Sinder whispered.

"Watch this." I say as I gave a very loud screech. The hawk looked up, and sees hundreds of red eyes.

This cave was full of bats that serve us. When they hear me call out, they attack the intruder. We're standing there watching the hawk struggle, but there were too many for him to handle.

Then next thing we see is a limp hawk and the bats were already starting to take the body away.

"Let's get out of here. I don't want to see what comes next." I say as we flew out of the cave. I thought we were on the clear, until I was suddenly snagged from above. It was another hawk.

"AHHHHHH!!"

"MINARA NO!" Jewel shouted.

"LET HER GO!!" Sinder shouted.

From the corner of my eye I see the girls chase after the hawk that has me in his claws. I struggled against him, trying to break free.

"YOU BETTER LET ME GO!!" I say as I bit the skin on his toe, hard. Forcing him to slow down and drop me.

I spun a bit then I straightened out. While the hawk was looking at his injury, Sinder and Jewel attacked him from behind. Grabbing his wings, trying to damage them, while falling in the process.

I followed them and landed on the hawks chest. All three of us pulling, biting, digging our talons into his flesh, but nothing seemed to be working. The hawk suddenly headbutted me, then shook off the other two by swinging Jewel into Sinder. We fell through the air and landed on a platform. The girls lost conciousness, my vision

was blurry, but I see the hawk coming towards us, talons ready. My eyes were getting heavy. The last thing I hear is a war cry, then my world went black.

~A while later~

I wake up with a throbbing headache. 'What happened?' I look around and I'm in my hollow, in my nest, with Sinder and Jewel next to me still asleep. Then I see my mother.

"Ma." My voice was very hoarse.

Mother sharply turned her head, rushes over to me, and nudged my head. "Minara! You're alright. We were so worried."

I looked out, and I see the sun has set. "How long was I asleep? And where's father?" I asked.

"A few hours at least." She said. "Your father is having the entire area patrolled."

As she said that, Sinder and Jewel woke up. Then looked at me.

"Minara! Thank Glaux your okay." Jewel said.

"How do you feel? Any pain at all?" Sinder asked.

"I'm alright. What about you?" They said they were ok, then I remembered something. "The hawk! What happened to that hawk?"

"I can answer that." Father says as he walked in.

"I'll leave you to it." Mother says as she walks out.

"So what happened?" I asked curiously as the girls scooted closer to me.

"Here's what happened." He started.

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3rd POV
After Minara blacked out, Metalbeak let out a war cry, that
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caught the hawk by surprise.

Before the hawk could even react, Metalbeak plunged his armored talons into the hawks chest.

The hawk screeched in pain and tried to fight back. They struggled a bit, before Metalbeak decided to end it. He pulled one claw out, and slashed the hawks throat. He watched as the light in the hawks eyes fade.

"Nobody harms my daughter." He says as he turns and sees Minara, Jewel, and Sinder unconscious. He rushes over to Minara.

"Minara? Minara wake up." He nudges her with his claw, but no response. He leans down, and hears her heart beat. That was a good sign. Then three soldiers appeared.

"My lord!"

"What happened?"

"Is the princess alright?"

Metalbeak looks at his soldiers. And gave each of them a task. "You dispose of the body, and you two, grab the other owlets and follow me." He says as he grabs Minara and goes to her hollow.

Metalbeak puts Minara in her nest, and has the soldiers place Sinder and Jewel next to her.

He would have to come back later. Now he has to do a thorough search and increase security. At least Minara was safe.

Flashback end
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~Minara POV~

"Minara" I looked up at me father. "Today you showed responsibility, courage, and independence. I couldn't have asked for more in a daughter."

"I did learn from the best." I smiled up at him, then he looked at

Sinder and Jewel. "And you two, are by far the bravest young tytos I've ever seen. And I couldn't be more grateful for what you did for Minara. And it would be my honor to call you my daughters, and stay by her side, as her sisters"

Sinder and Jewel were very surprised, and Minara couldn't believe what she was hearing.

Her father was complimenting them, and called them his daughters. The girls were overjoyed as they said.

"Thank you my lord." Sinder said.

"We won't let you down." Jewel said.

Father chuckled. " I know you won't. Now you three rest. You've all done well." He says as he nudges me, and walked out. The girls scooted closer to me, and we got comfortable. I now have to sister's, and I couldn't be happier right now.

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***FINALLY. It took me FOREVER to come up* with situations. *Sorry if it's a little bit sloppy*.**

Please let me know how this is. I decided to make this a two part chapter. So next is: Training Part 2.

Until next time 🐾🐾🐾🐾
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Chapter 5: Training Part 2

Previously...

Queen Nyra stated to the males.

"You all have done well so far. What I'm about to tell you is from the Lord High Tyto himself." Nyra said.

"One of you will be chosen as his apprentice. You all are the Pure Ones future. And when your grown, you will have a mate. Sinder and Jewel are strong, worthy, and capable females."

"**But the one that is truly worthy to be his apprentice, will be the one to be Minaras mate." Nyra said firmly.**

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~Kludd POV~

We were in the middle of our sparring lessons, until Nyra received news. It seemed really serious, but we were taken back to our hollow.

The next morning, we were escorted to an area for training. As we were walking, I can hear the other males talk about Sinder, and Jewel. But only the one that's chosen by the High Tyto, get to be Minaras mate.

I feel eyes on me. I looked behind me, and I see Astor glaring at me.

"You got something to say to me, say it."

"Let's get something straight. Minara is mine."

"She's nobodys. Quiet trying to claim her like some prize."

"We'll see about that."

We get to an open area, and standing there was Nyra, Minara,

Sinder, and Jewel.

"Morning, soldiers. Today you will do some sparing. Claw to claw first, then later on we'll practice with battle claws."

Then she announced the pairs, and Astor was paired with me.

We get to our stances, and start circling.

"When I'm done with you, you won't be able to show your face around here again." Astor taunted.

I smirked. "Funny, I'm actually surprised that your still showing your face around here. Considering you haven't beaten me at anything."

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~3rd POV~

Minara chuckled lightly at Kludds remark about Astor.

Astor glared hard at Kludd, and charged. It was a mess of screeches, claws swiping, and feathers flying. Kludd ended up pinning Astor to the ground.

"Is that all you got?" Kludd taunted.

"I'm just getting warmed up." Astor says as he charges at Kludd again.

But no matter how many times Astor tries, Kludd keeps pinning him down.

Minara was enjoying herself watching Astor get smashed to the ground, and gasping for air.

"You need to train more. I'm barely breaking a sweat, and look at you getting tired so quickly." Kludd said as he steps off and gets into a stance again.

"I'm not done yet! I promise this gets worse for you!" Astor says as he gets up, but Minara comes in between them.

"Alright you two. My mother has seen enough. We'll practice more later. Right now she wants to put you all through one final test, before being presented to my father. Follow me."

Minara lead them another cavern, and they see her mother with a blue bird in a cage. The owlets stand in front of her.

"Now, the best of you, the fittest, and the most brilliant, I will present to the Lord High Tyto." She says as she opens the cage, and grabs the bird. "So let's see how much you've improved..as fliers, as fighters!"

Nyra released the bird, and it flew between Kludd and Astor.

"Well?" Nyra said.

"Go get him!" Minara exclaimed as they all started to chase the bird.

Kludd and Astor were ahead, pushing and shoving each other. Astor had every intention to beat Kludd, be Metalbeaks apprentice, and be Minaras' mate.

The bird was flying up a pillar. In one swift move, Astor bumped Kludd, gaining the lead.

Minara watched anxiously. She didn't want Astor to beat Kludd.

'Come on, Kludd. You can do it.' She thought to herself as she looked on.

As Astor climbed the pillar, he kicks rocks to Kludds face, then goes over a banner pole after the bird.

Kludd sees the last rock. He dodges it, which made him faulter a bit, causing him to hit the pole. But grabs it at the last moment, and throws it behind him. Taking out the other owls.

As he looks back, he sees Minara smiling brightly at him. He could tell she was impressed. Then he turns back to the task at hand.

Astor was close to the bird, and reaches out with his claws, but missed. That's when Kludd makes his move.

With a burst of speed, he slammed into Astor, reaches out, and captured the bird.

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~Minara POV~

"Come, daughter. We must go congratulate him." Mother says.

I nodded as we take off to the other side of the cavern. Sinder, and Jewel went to check on the two owls that got caught underneath the banner.

I see Astor on the ground, recovering from his fall. He sees me, and we locked eyes. I glared at him with a 'Serves you right' look, as we flew past him.

"I knew you could do it." I say as landed beside him, with mother behind me.

"Well done. You have shown exceptional obedience, and discipline. My husband will be most pleased by your progress." Mother complimented as she looked at the blue bird.

But disregarded it.

I went up next to him.

"You can let it go now."

"Oh, right." He mumbled, and I giggled a bit as he realeases the bird.

"Tell me. Does your brother have similar potential as a flyer?" Mother asks him.

"Soren? No. He-he fell out of the tree when he was still a hatchling. He's lame." He says causing me to raise a brow, and mother to chuckle a bit.

"Soldier, you mustn't confuse praise for license. Never lie to me. For the Lord High Tyto, we need as many strong fliers as we can find." Mother says as she walks around us.

"Minara, how about you two go get him. I'll join you shortly."

I nodded to her, and she takes off. I turn to Kludd, and noticed a look on his face.

"Something on your mind, Kludd?"

He scoffed. "I still don't see why Soren should be recruited."

"Kludd, whether you get along with your brother or not, we need him. I'm sure he'll want to stay with you."

"He's weak, cause he lives in his dreams."

"And what's wrong with being a dreamer?" I say with a slight angry tone.

"I don't think you should be dreaming, Minara. It makes you weak." Kludd said with annoyance.

That's where I draw the line My eyes glowed red, and I got in his face.

"You're calling *ME* weak?! Have you forgotten who I am, who my father is?!"

He was shocked at my sudden outburst. He opened beak, but nothing came out.

"I am the heir to the Pure Ones future! I dream that I would be on the throne, ruling the owl kingdoms, as Queen. You may call your brother what you want, but NEVER call me weak! Understand?!"

Kludd nodded quickly.

"Good. Now come. Let's tell your brother, what rewards there are for those who recognize their true family."

~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~

3rd POV:

After that, Kludd felt really guilty for what he said to Minara. She's clearly proven herself, and her parents are excellent teachers. Now

she may hate him for calling her "Weak", shouldn't dream, and face reality.

But the reality is, all the stories were true. The Pure Ones exist. And one day, Minara will lead them to a glorious future.

Kludd wanted to apologize, but now was not the time. He just hopes that she would forgive him.

~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~

A/N: sorry for the late update.

I've had major writers block from all the stress at work, & it threw me off track.

I was having a really hard time writing the fight at the beginning of this chapter. Sorry if it's sucks.

But other than that, let me know how this is in the comments below. I appreciate you all for the votes, and your patience.

And also, please keep comments curse-free

We don't want nobody in trouble

Stay safe and healthy

Next Time:
Escape

Chapter 6: Escape

[image]

~3rd POV ~

Grimble was in his hollow teaching Soren and Gylfie how to fly.

"No, more flap. Deeper flap. The still air has no shape. You gotta compensate with your down stroke. Make your wing tips almost meet, if you can, without stalling."

"I can't curl my feathers enough, Grimble. My wings are too short." Gylfie complained.

"Well they say Lyze of Kiel's wings were short. And that didn't stop him. " Grimble commented as he landed. "And your gonna have need to fly a long way to get to the Guardians."

"The Guardians of Ga'hoole?" Soren asked.

"Yeah." Grimble replied.

"But how will we know where to go?" Soren asked.

"Well, you have to get to the Sea of Hoolemere...yeah, where the Tree is shrouded in ancient mists..." Grimble explained.

"Which keep it hidden from all, but the strong of purpose, and the true of heart." Soren finished reciting the legend.

"Yeah, exactly." Grimble replied, clearly impressed. "I'd come with you, but I still hold the hope of freeing my family."

"Really?" A new voice startled them.

They turned to see Minara, Kludd, and two guards. Minara glared at Grimble.

"Kludd." Soren called as he sees his brother.

Grimble had to hurry. If Minara was here, her mother won't be too far behind.

"Go!" Grimble told Soren and Gylfie.

"Kludd, come with us!" Soren called to him.

Kludd just gave him a 'Why would I do that' look.

"Go, now!" Grimble pushed.

"Get them!" Minara commanded as one soldier engaged Grimble, and he knocked the soldier to the side. The second soldier locked talons with Grimble. Then Grimble did a flip move, slamming the soldier into the ground face first.

"Kludd!" Soren called as he was running.

"Your little owlets won't get away." Minara screeched as she flared her wings, ready to fight.

Soren and Gylfie made it to the edge, but stopped. Minara flew up to get to them, but Grimble blocked her.

Furious, Minara clawed at Grimble, and were fighting in the air. She was a good fighter, and holding her own. But being young, Grimble had the advantage. Grimble headbutted Minara, hit her throat knocking her back, and quickly pinned her to the ground. Minara screeched and struggled trying to get up.

"Soren, we have to go!" Gylfie said she gestured to the edge.

"Wait." Soren said as he called to Kludd one more time. "Kludd! Come on! Now's our chance!"

"Well, what are you waiting for, son? This is your chance to go home!" Grimble said pointing to the exit.

"Kludd!" Minara exclaimed as Grimble pressed his talons harder against her chest making her screech.

Kludd looked at the exit, then to Minara. She looked at him still

screeching, as she kept struggling. Without hesitation..

"I am...I am home." Kludd said as he gave a challenging screech of his own.

Grimble and Soren were shocked. Minara bites his foot, hoping he would let go. But instead, Grimble grabs Minara and lifts her up in the air.

"You will pay for this, traitor!" Minara glares.

Grimble slams her to the ground, hard.

"Minara!" Kludd screeches. "Get away from her!"

Then they hear a higher pitch screech. Grimble looked up, and sees Queen Nyra fly in, talons out. Before Grimble could react, Nyra shoved him off of Minara, swinging her wing around, and threw him a short distance away. They hear a sickening crack as Grimble landed. His wing just broke.

"Would you wound your princess, Grimble?!" Nyra exclaimed glaring at him.

"She's not my princess!" Grimble growled as he knocked a lantern to the ground, and some scrolls were set a blaze.

Nyra dodged, then flew through a gap in the flames. She shoved past Grimble, but he jumps on top of her tumbling toward the owlets.

"We need to jump now, Soren!" Gylfie said as they went closer to the edge. "Now!"

They both fall off the edge, as does Grimble and Nyra.

Nyra tried to get to the owlets, but Grimble won't let go. Two soldiers see what's going on, and goes to assist their queen. They latch on to Grimble's wings.

"No! Follow the owlets!!" Nyra shouted at the soldiers as Grimble headbutted her, but she wasn't phased. "Follow the owlets! Go, you

fools!"

"Go! Go to the Guardians!" Grimble shouted as he simply gave up, and allowed his fate to happen.

Nyra lifted him up, slashed his throat, and watched him fall to his death.

'That's for harming my daughter, traitor.' Nyra thinks to herself as her eyes glowed red.

~Minara POV~

My head was pounding, and my vision was blurry.

"Minara, are you okay?" Kludd asked standing over me.

"I'm alright." I responded as I looked at him. "You stayed."

"Of course I did. I wouldn't want to be anywhere without you...and I'm so sorry. About before."

I knew what he meant. I rubbed my head on his. "I forgive you, Kludd."

"Thank you." He replies nuzzling me in return.

The next moment, mother returned, and she didn't look happy.

"Mother, what happened?"

"The owlets got away." She said as she looked out the hole of the cavern.

"And Grimble?" I asked.

Mother sighs. "Grimble's death, was unfortunate." She says as she turned to look at Kludd. "But you...you had a chance to follow your brother, yet you didn't. I'm starting to see that you might actually deserve to stay. To be one of us."

"Oh, I want that." Kludd said.

"We offer power, and purpose. What can you offer us? What can you offer me?"

Kludd hesitated a moment.

"I...I have a sister." He responds.

"Really?" I say as I stood close to him.

"Go on." Mother encouraged him.

"She's young, but she's got spirit." Kludd described. "And..and will grow into a strong Tyto."

"I would love to meet her. What's her name?" I asked.

"Eglantine. She lives in our home in Tyto forest."

"Perhaps you could bring her to me. Here the young ones, are our future." Mother said as she was really pleased with this offering.

~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~
Two chapters in one night? What the what? Lol.

Sorry it's short. I ran out of what to put in this.

Please let me know how it is. And also if you all have any ideas, please share. It would be a big help.

Stay safe and healthy

Next Time:
Meeting Eglantine

Chapter 7: Meeting Eglantine

[image]

3rd POV:
It's been weeks since Kludd, and Soren has gone missing. Eglantine was in the nest, watching her father pace. His face was etched with worry for his sons.

"Where could they be? Why would they go out branching without me? What if they're hurt? What if-"

"Noctus." Marella stepped in front of him. "I know you're worried. So am I. But the only thing we can do is hope for the best, and keep looking."

"You're right, Marella ." Noctus agreed. They made sure Eglantine was settled before setting off to hunt and continue searching for their sons.

A short time later, Eglantine went to the entrance, and looked at the night sky. She couldn't sleep cause she was worried for her brothers.

"Soren...Kludd...where could you two be?" The little owlet muttered before going back to the safety of the hollow and goes to sleep.

Minara POV:

The sun was rising as Kludd and I head to Tyto Forest to retrieve his little sister, Eglantine. I've always wanted to see what was beyond the mountains of St. Agelious. I was excited to meet Eglantine, but not so excited about the trip getting there. Why you ask?

"What do you think Jatt? I'll get to show my Predator look to the owlet."

"And I'll show my Evil Stare."

I roll my eyes at the two. The twins had to accompany us. Of all the Tyto guards and collectors we had, mother assigned the most

annoying owls of them all.

If Grimble hadn't betrayed us, I would've been fine with that. He was always pleasant to talk to, and he gave me a few lessons in flying back when I was still learning. But as annoying as the twins are, and their habits with ways scare young ones, they can carry Eglantine, and kill a bigger foe. Sure I've helped beaten a hawk with Sinder and Jewel, but they can kill a lot better than I can. One day I will.

"Here we are, Minara." Kludd called to me pulling me out of my thoughts. I look at the view before me, and smiled. So this is Tyto Forest. The high lush trees and mountains, to the lakes, and waterfalls. It was really beautiful.

"Wow." I say. "I've never seen anything like it."

We all land on a branch on their tree. Kludd stated that his parents should be out hunting at this time. Our plan was to get Eglantine, and get out of here. I tell the twins to wait here, then Kludd and I swoop down to the hollows entrance.

3rd POV:

Kludd enters the hollow and finds his sister fast asleep. He had to be fast if he was gonna leave with her before his parents returned. He walks to the nest and nudges her awake.

"Eglantine. Hey, Eglantine."

Eglantine slowly opened her eyes and when she sees her older brother, she gasped happily then goes to hug him. "Kludd! You're okay! Ma, Da, and Mrs. P have been looking everywhere for you, and Soren. And-"

Eglantine stopped talking when she noticed someone standing at the entrance of the hollow. White face, one eye green, the other blue, white face, black upper body, and a white underbelly. She was really pretty.

"Who's that?"

Kludd gestured her to come in, and introduced her. "Eglantine, I want you to meet someone very special to me. This is Princess Minara."

The new owlet entered And smiled kindly at Eglantine. "It's a pleasure to meet you. Kludd has told me so much about you."

"He did?"

"Yes. He told me that you love to hear stories of owl history. And your favorite story is 'Battle of the Ice Claws'."

"Not by choice. Soren hardly ever lets me play Lyze."

"Really?" Minara stepped forward. "What if I told you that the legend was *more* than just a story? That Metalbeak is not a myth?"

"Huh?" Eglantine was confused. "Metalbeak is-is real?"

"Yes." Minara nodded. "He's my father."

"We'll explain on the way. Come on, Eg." Kludd started pushing her gently to the outside. The second she stepped out, Jutt swooped down and grabs Eglantine.

"Wait! Stop! Let me go!"

"Don't worry, Eglantine." Minara reassured her flying along side the owlet. "You will be perfectly safe with your new family."

"New family? Where are you taking me?!"

"We're gonna be a part of something bigger, Eg. We Tytos will rule the owl kingdoms." Kludd says as he flew up next to her. "Become a Pure One."

Eglantine was shocked Kludd would do such a thing. He's changed. With tears in her eyes she watches her home go smaller and smaller. And so with the owlet in hand, or claws, they fly back to St. Agelious.

~Timeskip~

Minara POV:

After a long, tiring flight, home was straight ahead. I look back at Eglantine. Poor little thing's scared to death.

Eglantine shivers with fright. "What is this place? I want to go home.

Nyra lifted Eglantine's chin with her talon. "Dear child, this will be your new home. The Pure Ones will be your new family. You shall stay with your brother until you are comfortable. Minara and her sisters will be with you as well."

Kludd placed a wing around her. "See Eg? There's nothing to fear here."

"Come, soldiers." Mother called as she turned away. "It's time for you all to meet the High Tyto."

She spreads her wings and fly off the edge with the rest of us following. It was time for Kludd to meet my father. Hopefully he'll approve of him.

Talons crossed

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Next Chapter:
Metalbeak

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Authors note: I'm back. I'm so sorry it took me so long. I had some issues and work has been hectic, and been mentally and physically stressed. I was thinking too hard on a random part, but I'll stick to this for now. Please let me know what you all think